

## Being Part of the LGBTQ+ Community

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## **Being Part of the LGBTQ+ Community**

Genevive Cerda

As you may know, being part of the LGBTQ+ community is not a choice, it is simply who somebody is. It can be hard enough for someone of the community to “come out” to their loved ones. Being born into a religious family and/or household can add a lot of pressure to this. Not only might they be going against their family’s belief systems, but they are fearful of losing their loved ones simply because of who they are. In many cases, homosexuality of any kind is considered shameful and a sin. Growing up in a religious household also means traditions which includes learning how a traditional family should appear to the public and how they should act. However, there are also instances where to some, having a loving family is all that matters. Although a lot of people don’t mind homosexuality, it might still be “forbidden” to older generations. Another hardship the community faces is having to be careful living their day-to-day lives because there are also non-religious people who also find homosexuality to be wrong. Homophobia is similar to racism in the sense that both things are taught and nobody is born with hatred towards somebody that has no control over their sexuality or the color of their skin. Although there might be more support of the LGBTQ+ community now than there used to be, we still face daily discrimination because of our sexualities. Luckily, I was born with a mom who has made it clear that she and her side of the family accept and support anyone in the community. However, I am not out to my family yet because I still consider it difficult, especially since my father’s side is more conservative, traditional, and religious. This affects me because it makes me feel as if I’m an outsider in my home and as much as I love my family, growing up in that environment of what they consider to be the right and wrong ways of living make me feel unimportant, unseen, and unheard; it makes me wonder if their love for me would change and if they would try to “make me straight.” I cannot speak for everyone, but not being able to share how you feel to the people you grew up with and love could make you feel isolated and alone. Although you might not be able to “change” someone’s perspective on certain things, bringing the situation(s) to light and educating people would definitely make a difference. If we sat down and took the time to educate ourselves on these topics, there might be change sooner rather than later.